which offers financial assistance on a tapering basis for a period of 3 years to the workers of closed Textile Mills.

Legislation for Agricultural Workers

43. SRHI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long pending demand of the agricultural workers of the country for a Central legislation on agricultural workers ensuring minimum wages and better working conditions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) For a long time, the Government had considered enactment of a Central Legislation for agricultural workers. The issue has been considered at various forums including the Labour Ministers' conferences. At the 37th session of the New Delhi on 7th November, 1988, the General view was that the problem was not one of lack of Central Legislation, but more of implementation of the existing laws, such as Minimum wages Act, Equal Remuneration Act and other laws which cover agricultural labour within their ambit.

Conversion of lease-hold plots into free-hold in Delhi

44. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to convert lease-hold plots into free-hold ones in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rules governing such conversion from lease-hold to free hold?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A decision to allow residential leases in Delhi upto 500 sq.m. in size, to be converted into free hold subject to certain terms and conditions, has been taken in October, 89.

(b) A statement is enclosed indicating the terms and conditions for such conversion.

Statement

(i) The sanction is applicable to all residential leases santioned by a public agency in respect of properties (including multi-storayed flats and tenements built by the Delhi Development Authority and its Slum Wing as also by Group Housing Societies on land leased by the DDA) upto a size of 500 sq.m.

(ii) The benefit of conversion shall not be available in respect of land where the land use is prescribed in the Master Plan/Zonal Development Plan is 'Commercial', 'Industrial' or 'Institutional' or any use other than residential.

(iii) The rate of one-time fee for the conversion to free-hold to be recovered in lumpsum, shall be as follows:—

Size of plot in sp. m.	Rate of overtime fee.
(a) Up to 50	Nil
(b) Above 50 and upto 75	Rs. 7500/-
(c) Above 75 and upto 100	Rs. 12000/-
(d) Above 100 and upto 150	Rs. 18000/-
(e) Above 150 and upto 250	10% of the current
(f) Above 250 and upto 350	15% notified land
(g) Above 350 and upto 500	20% rates.

(iv) The benefit of conversion shall be available to only such lessees who opt for it. Such option would be kept open for a period of 6 (six) months from the date of Public Notice to be issued by the concerned public agency administering the leases.

(v) For the facility of the beneficiaries the concerned agency administering the leases would make arrangements with the scheduled Banks for the deposit of the one-time fee by the lessees.

(vi) The conversion would be open only to the leases appearing as such in the records of the public agencies administering the leases. In regard to any person who is holding power of attorney on behalf of a lesses or their nominee, the concerned public agency would permit him to execute a transfer-sale deed subject to payment of the prescribed share of the unearned increase so that he could become eligible as a lesses for conferment of freehold rights. Detailed instructions regarding the procedure to be allowed for this purpose, based on the scheme floated recently by the Delhi Development Authority in respect of built-up residential plots, would be issued separately.

(vii) The proceeds from the one-time fee is proposed to be utilised for housing, including construction of General Pool Accommodation, and for Urban Development programmes in Delhi. For this purpose two special funds viz 'General Pool Residential Accommodation Fund' and the 'Delhi Urban Development Fund' would be set up and proceeds from the one-time conversion charges would be credited to these funds.

Package Programme for Agriculture

45. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive package programme for agriculture was announced by the previous Government; and

(b) if so, at what stage is the said programme and what is present Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b) An Agriculture Package was announced in the Parliament on the 12th of October, 1989. In the last week of October, the State Governments and all the concerned Ministries/Departments in the Government of India were requested to initiate further action on this Package.

The present Government's policies for promoting agriculture and the welfare of the farmers are contained in the Election Manifesto of the National Front. The Government will initiate programmes for assisting farmers in the light of these policies.

Construction of Nadiad, Kapadvanj-Modasa Broad Gauge Line

46. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had accorded priority to Nadiad-Kapadvanj-Modasa Broad gauge line, if so by when it is likely to be completed and what will be its final cost;

(b) by when this line was sanctioned and what were the funds earmarked for the project, yearwise, and whether the project is included in the backward region development programme of Government; and